AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an amount of access to a resource in an electronic system to prevent unauthorized access to said resource, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a pricing strategy for said resource in a denomination of electronic security value units, said pricing strategy being dynamically adjustable at any time;

allocating a budget for one of a component and a group of components of said electronic system to access said resource by payment of said electronic security value units;

selectively distributing said electronic security value units to ~~a~~ said component of said electronic system in accordance with said budget; and

controlling access to said resource based on ~~a price in security electronic electronic security value units~~ said pricing strategy established for said resource and based on an amount of payment by said component, wherein said payment comprises ~~consists of~~ one or more of said electronic security value units previously distributed to said component based on said budget.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

denying said component access to said resource when said component pays an amount of said ~~security~~ electronic security value units less than said price established for said resource.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selectively distributing electronic security value units further comprises the step of:

determining whether to distribute any of said electronic security value units to said component.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of controlling access is further based on limiting the number of accesses to said resource, by said component, regardless of the amount of said electronic security value units paid by said component.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of controlling access is further based on limiting the rate of accesses to said resource by said component.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic security value units may be used to access a group of one or more resources in said electronic system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said price is particular to said component, such that said price is different for other components of said electronic system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic system is a network, and said component is a client in said network.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic security value instrument, comprising:

a first field for indicating a quantity of electronic security value units in said instrument;

a second field for indicating a group of one or more resources with which said electronic security value instrument is associated, and

a third field for indicating a specific resource in said group of one or more resources that said particular component may access,

wherein said electronic security value instrument is used to control access by components to resources in said group of resources based on prices in electronic security value units established for said resources and the quantities of electronic security value units paid by said components.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic security value instrument of claim 9, further comprising ~~at least one of~~:

a ~~third~~ fourth field providing an identifier of said electronic security value instrument~~; and~~

~~a fourth field indicating a specific resource in said group of one or more resources that said particular component may access~~.

11. (Currently Amended) An electronic system which uses electronic security value units to prevent unauthorized access to resources through an interface in the system, said system comprising:

a resource manager for determining a pricing strategy in electronic security value units for a group of one or more resources in said system; and

an electronic bank server for selectively distributing electronic security value units to a component in said system, said electronic security value units being unique to said group of one or more resources,

wherein access to a particular resource in said group by said component is determined by said pricing strategy and requires an amount of payment by said component before said access is granted, wherein said payment consists of said electronic security value units previously distributed to said component,

wherein said access to said resources is controlled at an interface to one or more resources and said interface is one of a hardware access point and a software access point.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for associating electronic security value units with access by a component of an electronic system to a resource of said system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing a price, in said security electronic security value units, of said resource;

(b) selectively distributing a budget, in said ~~security~~ electronic security value units, to said component, said budget being an amount of said security electronic security value units;

(c) controlling access to said resource, based on said price and on an amount of payment from said component, wherein said payment is at least a portion of said budget distributed to said component; and

(d) determining the number of accesses that can be accomplished by said component to said resource based on said budget and said price.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said price can be dynamically adjusted at any time.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said budget can be dynamically adjusted at any time.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said resource can comprise a group of resources, each resource of said group having a respective price, and wherein said step of determining further comprises the step of determining the number of accesses that can be accomplished by said component to each said resource of said group.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said component can comprise a group of components, each component of said group having a respective budget, and wherein said step of

determining further comprises the step of determining the number of accesses that can be accomplished by each said component of said group of components to said resource.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

denying said component access to said resource when said payment from said component is less than said price established for said resource.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of controlling access is further based on limiting the number of accesses to said resource by said component, regardless of the amount of said payment.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said price is particular to said component, such that said price is different for other components of said electronic system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of establishing a price is based on said budget and a limit on said number of accesses to said resource by said component.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of selectively distributing said budget is based on said price and a limit on said number of accesses to said resource by said component.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said budget may be dynamically adjusted at any time.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic security value units are unique to said resource.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selectively distributing said electronic security value units includes the step of distributing one or more of electronic security value instruments, said electronic security value instruments comprising a quantity of said electronic security value units.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said budget is allocated on a per component basis.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said budget is allocated on a per resource basis.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic security value units indirectly identify said component accessing said resource.

28. (New) The electronic security value instrument of claim 9, wherein said electronic security value units indirectly identify said component accessing said resource.

29. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein said interface comprises an application program interface.

30. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said resource comprises an application program interface, wherein said step of controlling access to said resource is performed at said application program interface.

31. (New) A method for controlling access to an interface in an electronic system to prevent unauthorized access to said interface, said method comprising the steps of:

selectively distributing electronic security value units to a component of said electronic system; and

controlling access to said interface based on a price in electronic security value units established for said interface and based on an amount of payment by said component, wherein said payment consists of one or more of said electronic security value units previously distributed to said component,

wherein said interface is one of a hardware access point and a software access point.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said interface comprises an application program interface.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

creating a pricing strategy for said resource in a denomination of said electronic security value units; and

allocating a budget for one of a component and a group of components to access said resource by said payment of said electronic security value units,

wherein said step of selectively distributing said electronic security value units comprises selectively distributing said electronic security value units in accordance with said budget.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising dynamically controlling the pricing strategy for said resource to enable dynamic adjustment of the amount of said payment of said electronic security value units by said component to access said resource.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising dynamically controlling said budget.